



EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
VISITOR CENTER MURAL

The vast expanse of sawgrass marsh, dotted with tree islands, makes up what is called the "true everglades". Slightly elevated areas in the glades support lush tropical hammocks (far right) and pinelands. Periodic fires burn out invading hardwood trees and maintain the open pine woods. Scattered cypress trees occupy small solution holes in the underlying limestone or congregate to form cypress "heads" in larger depressions (left of pines). Mangroves mark the line which separates fresh from salt water. Magnificent forests of mangroves line the creeks and shoreline of the Gulf Coast and Florida Bay.

(Painted by Everett P. Thomas)

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